

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday 16th August, 2006.

Present:- Councillor Mrs Rigg (Chairman), Councillors Cherrett, Frankland, Miss Inman, Jones, Laing (Vice Councillor Lupton), Mrs Norton, Perry (vice Councillor Mrs Beaumont), Rix and Mrs Robinson (vice Councillor Coombs).

Officers:- G Birtle, Miss F Shayler (LD).

Also in attendance:- Dr Lynda Turner (Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare); Mr Peter Sellar (Chair of Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board and Head of Children and Young People's Strategy).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Beaumont, Coombs, Harrington, Lupton, Lynch, Mrs Trainer; Mr A Maxwell (Diocesan Representative), Mr Beach and Mrs S Moloney (Parent Governor Representatives).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th July, 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

Review of Teenage Pregnancy

Members had invited Dr Lynda Turner to the meeting to provide information on the North Tees Contraception and Sexual Health Service. The service was confidential and non judgemental and provided contraceptive advice and treatment together with sexual health care including screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's), cervical screening, emergency contraceptives, pregnancy testing and referral for termination of pregnancy. The Service also provided training for doctors and nurses, recognised by the Faculty of Family Planning/NMC.

Dr Turner stated that more 12 to 13 year olds were being seen in the clinics and that staff were trained to counsel under 16's in a specific way. A checklist was used during counselling to ensure that there were no child protection issues, that they weren't at risk, did they require the contraception, pro's and con's of the impact of sex/relationships/contraception, encouraged them to discuss issues with parents.

Dr Turner provided information on 'Implanon' a contraceptive implant that provided protection against pregnancy for 3 years, this device was very popular amongst females wanting longer term contraception.

The Service was involved in the Sex Education Roadshow and provided additional support to the Pregnancy Co-ordinators in Schools if they required it.

Members discussed involving parents and providing open evenings to provide information to parents on what services were available.

Peter Seller, Chair of Teenage Pregnancy Board and Head of Children and Young People's Strategy had provided details to members on the budget for the Teenage Pregnancy Unit. He brought to Members attention the other services that work alongside the Unit such as Youth Workers, Sure Start, Schools, Family Planning etc. Mr Seller would distribute an up to date copy of the budget once the NRF spend had been determined.

Members were informed of the 'Bare All' BBC radio interview regarding teenage sex that was available to listen to on the BBC website, the Scrutiny Officer had a copy of this interview for any Members that may wish to receive a copy.

Members asked about posters being displayed in Schools to promote Services, it was stated that this was up to the discretion of each School.

Members were informed that two further meetings had been arranged for 19th September and 28th September for further witnesses to appear before the Committee.

Concluded that:-

1. An update of the Teenage Pregnancy Unit budget be prepared and distributed to Members.
2. Any Members wanting a copy of the 'Bare All' BBC interview to contact the Scrutiny Officer.
3. The next two meetings be confirmed for 19th and 28th September 2006.